

From: Bloomberg Environment - Environment & Energy Report [bloomberg@bna.com]
Sent: 5/1/2019 8:30:24 PM
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Subject: Environment & Energy Report Highlights

**Bloomberg
Environment**

**ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY
REPORT**

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Highlights

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LEADING THE NEWS

[Trump Said to Ease Drilling Rules Sparked by 2010 Gulf Oil Spill](#)

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

The Trump administration is poised to relax offshore drilling requirements imposed in response to the Deepwater Horizon disaster that killed 11 people in 2010 and unleashed the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

[White House Stonewalling Glider Truck Probe, EPA Watchdog Says](#)

By Abby Smith

The White House isn't cooperating with a probe into how the Trump administration handled a hotly debated proposal to ease air pollution limits for trucks with rebuilt engines, the EPA's internal watchdog said.

[Burning Fluorinated Chemicals May Move Water Problem Into Air](#)

By Sylvia Carignan and Amena H. Saiyid

Almost three years after the EPA warned the public about two ubiquitous fluorinated chemicals present in drinking water nationwide, regulators are still grappling with how to dispose of the substances before they end up in wells and waterways.

House Panel Advances Bill to Ban Arctic Oil and Gas Drilling

By Stephen Lee

The House Natural Resources Committee on May 1 advanced a bill to repeal the oil and gas program in the the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but the legislation is unlikely to go far in the Republican-controlled Senate.

CAPITOL HILL

Gas Tax for Infrastructure Sparks Fears of Political Backlash

By Laura Davison and Mark Niquette

Democrats and Republicans are quick to talk up a bipartisan infrastructure deal. Yet neither party wants to take the political risk of paying for it when all options are toxic — including the obvious choice of raising the national gas tax.

Pelosi Invokes Obama to Head Off Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal

By Ari Natter

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is trying to head off her party's restive progressive caucus by invoking the legacy of President Barack Obama to build support for a climate change bill that falls well short of the ambitions of the Green New Deal championed by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Trump 'Open' to Infrastructure Spending on EV Charging: Stabenow

By Ari Natter

President Donald Trump is "open" to considering infrastructure spending on electric vehicle charging, Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) said April 30 after meeting Trump with other Democrats at the White House.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Fish and Wildlife Seeks to Strip Beetle's Endangered Status (1)

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

The Trump administration is seeking to downgrade Endangered Species Act protections for a one-inch beetle that has confounded oil pipelines and drilling in Oklahoma and Nebraska.

Republicans Push Trump to Scrap U.S. Ship Waiver Plan for Gas

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy and Ari Natter

Republican lawmakers are discouraging President Donald Trump from waiving requirements that U.S.-flagged, -built and -crewed vessels be used to transport natural gas and other commodities among American ports.

Nevada Senators Don't Convince Colleagues on Yucca Mountain

By Tiffany Stecker

The heads of the Senate's environment panel are ready to move legislation to provide interim and long-term plans to store radioactive waste from the nation's nuclear power plants in Nevada despite vocal opposition from their Senate colleagues in that state.

BLM Acting Chief Leaves for Utah's Environmental Regulator

By Stephen Lee

The Bureau of Land Management's top official, Brian Steed, has left the agency to head up Utah's Department of Natural Resources.

DOE Seeks Quicker Path to Appliance Efficiency Testing Waivers

By Bobby Magill

The Energy Department is seeking to grant waivers for appliance energy efficiency testing standards nearly automatically, under a proposed rule published in the May 1 Federal Register.

Energy Efficiency Groups Push for Extension of Expired Tax Breaks

By Robert Lee

A group of organizations focused on energy efficiency are calling on lawmakers to renew several tax credits this spring—adding to the mounting pressure to address expired tax breaks.

'Tide Has Shifted' For Clean Energy Opportunity Zone Market

By Lydia O'Neal

Real estate ventures are swarming the 2017 tax law's opportunity zone incentives, and renewable energy investors may soon join the party.

In a Break From Usual Call for Coal, AEP Seeks Clean Power Bids

By Will Wade

Every few months, American Electric Power Co. posts a call on its website for bids to supply coal to power plants it runs across the U.S.—pretty routine for one of largest coal consumers in the U.S.

Feds OK 10 More Years of Coal Mining, Despite Plant Closure

By Stephen Lee

Federal regulators will sign off May 1 on a plan by Westmoreland Coal Co. to keep mining three million tons of coal per year at a large mine in northwest New Mexico until 2033.

CLIMATE

Green New Deal's Lack of Tax Opens Door to GOP-Backed Carbon Fee

By Abby Smith

The Green New Deal doesn't have a carbon tax at its core, but that could be a blessing in disguise, a leading advocate for a Republican-led carbon pricing plan says.

House Panel Backs More Research on Climate Change and Oceans

By David Schultz

Lawmakers of both parties strongly backed legislation May 1 that would spur more research into ocean acidification, one of the many side effects of global climate change.

AIR, WATER, AND WASTE

Judges Grapple with EPA's Stance on Coal Power Plant in Utah

By Amena H. Saiyid

Federal appeals court judges wrestled with Sierra Club arguments that an EPA order for a single coal-fired power plant in Utah would have a nationwide impact on the air permitting program as a whole.

Maui Getting Cold Feet on Eve of Supreme Court Water Case

By David Schultz

The Supreme Court may not be able to make a precedent-setting opinion on federal regulation of groundwater pollution because both of the parties in a case before the court are expressing a desire to settle.

House Science Leader Gets Approval on Energy-Water Research Bill

By David Schultz

What a difference a gavel makes.

Environmental Justice Advisers Push for Superfund Consistency

By Sylvia Carignan

The EPA's environmental justice advisers are aligning with corporate interests in a new call for consistency in how the agency approaches the cleanup of toxic waste sites across the country.

CHEMICALS

EPA Nixes Request by Attorneys General to Gather Asbestos Data

By Pat Rizzuto

The EPA won't require companies importing asbestos or asbestos-containing products to report that information, the agency told a group of attorneys general April 30.

INSIGHT

INSIGHT: Be an Averter: Tips for Preventing Environmental Crises

By Alexandra Farmer

The threat of fires, explosions, and natural disasters keeps many company executives awake at night. Fatalities, indictments, "bet the company" litigation, bankruptcy, and environmental disasters are the scary consequences, but fear is an inadequate response. By proactively building resilience and preparedness to respond to an environmental crisis, leaders can move away from the ineffective strategy of ignoring the fear and focus on mitigating, instead of hiding from, the risk.

FROM THE STATES

New York Approves Ban on Chlorpyrifos Pesticide

By Keshia Clukey

New York State would phase out and then entirely ban the use of chlorpyrifos by the end of 2021, according to legislation passed April 30.

Foam Takeout Containers Banned in Maine

By Adrienne Appel

Maine is the first state in the nation to ban foam food containers under a bill Gov. Janet Mills signed into law April 30.

Florida Legislature Moves to Block Plastic Straw Bans

By Chris Marr

Florida would block its cities from banning or regulating plastic drinking straws under legislation headed to Gov. Ron DeSantis (R).

New York State Ban Would Shelve Toxic Toys, Kid Products

By Keshia Clukey

New York state is poised to ban the use of toxic chemicals in children's toys, clothing, and furniture and to require manufacturers to disclose whether those chemicals are in their products.

New York Passes Standards to Make Toilets More Efficient

By Keshia Clukey

Plumbing fixtures sold or installed in New York State starting in 2022 must be water efficient under legislation that passed April 30.

New York Takes Steps to Tackle Environmental Justice Issues

By Keshia Clukey

New York lawmakers took action to address environmental justice April 30, passing a bill that would require the state Department of Environmental Conservation to publish a list of the areas most affected by environmental hazards.

Challenge to Baltimore Air Emissions Ordinance Filed

By Peter Hayes

A coalition of companies and trade associations filed a challenge to Baltimore's recently enacted ordinance that imposes restrictions on air emissions from a large waste-to-energy facility and a medical waste incinerator.

Florida Lawmakers OK New Highways Drawing Environmentalists Barbs

By Jennifer Kay

Florida lawmakers have approved a plan to build three new highways that environmental groups say could dramatically change the state's rural landscapes.

Maine Governor Introduces Bill to Jump-Start Climate Goals

By Adrienne Appel

Maine needs to move forward with its goal to cut greenhouse gases 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050, Gov. Janet Mills (D) said April 30 as she introduced legislation that would create a climate council to jump-start the process.

Wine Country Airplane Emissions Subject to Possible EPA Suit (1)

By Emily C. Dooley

Two environmental groups plan to sue the EPA for failing to set air standards for lead emissions from small airplanes in California's wine country.

AROUND THE GLOBE

South Australia \$22M Plan to Turn Mine Into Energy Storage Site

By Deborah Nesbitt

A deal promising to deliver South Australia its largest energy storage facility will see an open-pit copper mine turned into a 250-megawatt pumped hydroelectric energy storage project.

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